

President's Update

By Amalie Day
CoMP President

•The year started off on a great note. As many of you know, CoMP (formerly SCAMC) has been responsible for paying the Montessori program's administrative costs related to AMI affiliation. Beginning this school year SPS will pay these costs. Thank you SPS Administration for your continuing support.

•CoMP can now concentrate on 1) teacher recruitment, 2) raising funds for our teacher recruits to attend Montessori training, and 3) raising funds to provide materials, support, and educational opportunities for our current teachers. I hope you're asking, "How can I help?" Look for CoMP's annual appeal letter coming soon to your mailbox.

•Another way to help: Get involved! Our program depends on parent involvement to succeed. There are many opportunities, in and out of the classroom. Contact Kim Thomas (290-6891; ckdarc@juno.com) at Balboa, Callie Bendickson (443-1228, calleen@hotmail.com) at Jefferson, or me (443-0580, amalie@icehouse.net) to find out what will work for you.

•Jefferson is one of the schools being considered for replacement or renovation on the 2009 bond. There are six community forums scheduled in October to discuss the projects being considered under SPS' long-range facility and technology improvement plan. The first meeting is at Jefferson on October 1st at 7pm. Go to www.spokaneschools.org/ComRel/Bond2009.stm to see the full schedule. Let's make sure CoMP has input into the design of any new or renovated Montessori classrooms.

•Montessori Handbook: Thanks to Jan Karel's tireless efforts, each CoMP family will soon receive a copy of our new handbook. This handbook is filled with valuable information about the Montessori philosophy and education method, the SPS Montessori Program, and CoMP.

•Is your family new to Montessori education? There are two things you can do to increase your Montessori knowledge. 1) Attend Parent Information/Philosophy Nights. 2) Read. Go to our website, www.spokanepublicmontessori.org, click on the "Calendar" tab for Parent Information Night dates, click on the "Parent Resources" tab for reading suggestions.

•If you found yourself saying "I'd rather write a check than drink coffee," now's your chance to put your money where your mouth is. We will no longer be selling Thomas Hammer coffee as a fund raiser. Thank you Thomas Hammer Coffee Roasters for your generous support of the SPS Montessori program.

I welcome your questions and suggestions: 443-0580 or amalie@icehouse.net.

SCAMC is now
Community of
Montessori
Parents (CoMP)



Thank you everyone for turning in your ballots and helping make the name change to CoMP possible. In conjunction with the change, we also have a new look. Two CoMP families have purchased the services of branding consultant (and APPLE program dad) Karsten Olson. He facilitated our name selection, designed the icon above, a logo and stationary. He is also a very patient man. If you see him, please thank him. An updated version of the CoMP bylaws will soon be available on our web site and our name change is either official or pending with the IRS and the Washington Secretary of State. Hopefully our new name will roll more mellifluously off the tongue and our new look will appear soon on a T-shirt near you.

-Sandra Billings

Questions or comments about the newsletter: sandrabilings@comcast.net

Meet two new teachers-in-training

By Carrie Ryan Walls
Montessori
Teacher-in-Training

I love going to school. I love just about everything having to do with school. Because of this, I have spent countless hours in the classroom learning. I moved out to Washington from Wisconsin to attend Gonzaga University. I graduated from Gonzaga with a Bachelors degree in Spanish and Broadcasting. I was halfway through my senior year at Gonzaga when I decided that I really didn't want to leave school. I completed my Masters in elementary education at Eastern immediately after leaving Gonzaga. After finishing my teaching degree I spent five years teaching at Lakeside Elementary on the Coeur d'Alene Reservation. I taught grades K, 1, 2, and 5 and also served as the principal designee. It was in this capacity that I had the opportunity to work with many different children and parents. I became interested in building relationships and focusing on meeting the needs of individual children. It was also during this time that I was encouraged by my neighbor, whose daughter attends the Montessori program at Jefferson, to observe a Montessori classroom. I



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By Lynzie Abbey
Montessori
Teacher-in-
Training

My journey as a teacher began a little over five years ago after I graduated from Eastern Washington University. It was during this time that I was first introduced to the Montessori philosophy by my social studies professor.



A few years later I found myself at Balboa Elementary teaching fourth grade. My classroom was right next to the Montessori wing. Over the next few months, I became intrigued and genuinely interested in what

was going on next door. The children's excitement for learning permeated the halls. There was an energy that was different than what I had ever experienced. I found myself on a daily basis in awe of what was happening on the other side of my wall. My curiosity must have shown because little by little the Montessori team took me under its wing, giving me the courage to pursue this new chapter in my life.

So here I am today. I am so proud and excited to have started my training as a Montessori

continued inside

Carrie Ryan Walls: continued

can remember coming home after this observation. I couldn't believe the initiative, independence, and work that I saw. I knew I wanted to learn more.

I have been lucky to begin training in Milwaukee. I have met many remarkable people. This summer I was immersed in the foundational primary course and only received a glimpse of elementary classroom education. I worked harder than I ever have and still have lots of charts to color before January!

It has been somewhat hard to adjust back to life here as a teacher in Spokane. I went from a full Montessori immersion summer to cold-turkey from Montessori this fall. I have been fortunate to be placed this year in a full day Kindergarten at Audubon Elementary. The children I work with are, of course, delightful. It's hard to meet a class that you don't fall in love with no matter where you are. But in the back of my mind, I look forward to a classroom where I'm free to follow each child.

Lynzie Abbey: continued

teacher. Each day of my learning has been fascinating, surpassing the day before. It doesn't seem possible, but it is. I won't lie, the days are long and work is longer. The intensity is beyond anything I have ever signed up for. But that doesn't seem to matter, because the payoff is so much greater. I get

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to be a part of something that is great. I can hardly wait to join the Montessori team and community as more than just a spectator, but as a partner and advocate for each child's future.

Editor's note: Both teachers-in-training have just finished their first of three summers of Montessori training.

Three parents join Board

One from Balboa ...

We are proud to introduce Roxane Caprye as our new parent at large board member from Balboa Elementary. Roxane and her husband Mark have four children, Corey, Hope, Kaitlyn and Kyle. Roxane and her family have deep Montessori roots. In 1965, her mother-in-law started the first Montessori school in Spokane and was part of the group responsible for getting Montessori classrooms into the school district. In 2002, Roxane and Mark purchased the Spokane Montessori School from her mother-in-law and continue the Montessori legacy as owners of the school. Roxane and her family enjoy camping, boating and sports. She brings knowledge, experience, and ideas to our board. Please join me in welcoming her.

-Kim Thomas
CoMP North Chair

... and two from Jefferson

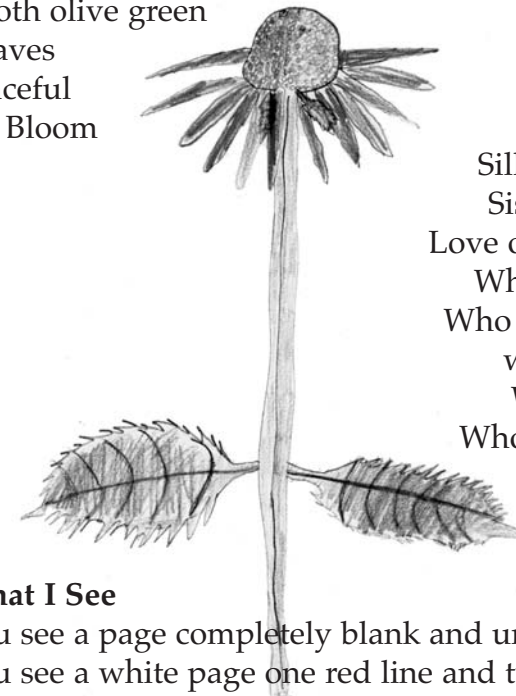
CoMP South is excited to bring two new members to the CoMP Board of Directors table, Donna Evenson and Kathryn Picanco. Kathryn is serving our community as a parent at large. She is an Assistant Professor of Education at Whitworth University and has three children, Kate, Julia and Trevor. Kate is a second grader in Mrs. Waner's class, Julia is six and Trevor is three. Kathryn brings fresh ideas and a collaborative spirit to the Montessori program. Donna is joining as our secretary. She is a teacher at SFCC in the Business Technology Department. Her son Nels is a Montessori graduate who is now a sophomore at LC, while Hannah is a 4th grader in Mrs. Bradley's class. Donna has served CoMP south as our secretary for six years. Her history with the program is rich and her short hand skills are irreplaceable. Welcome to the table, Donna and Kathryn!

-Mindi Finch
CoMP South Chair

**Poems from Jefferson's
Upper EI Classrooms**

Bee Balm

Peaceful bomb
Erupting from the soil
With its vivid flaming red
petals
But soft smooth olive green
leaves
Peaceful
-Sam Bloom



What I See

You see a page completely blank and untouched.
You see a white page one red line and twenty-five blue.
You see a page, a sheet, a piece of paper.
You see pencil marks, spreading across the paper.
You see a clean sheet of nothing.
You see a page waiting to be used.
I see a story of a duck, a princess, and a moose.
I see an ocean of letters rolling and slashing over the page
and imagination raining over them.
-Olivia Payne

Marigold

Puffy ruby pom pom
Trimmed with buttery yellow
An egg yolk center
Frying in a crimson pan
Sunny side up
-Sydney Cathcart



Hannah

Silly, funny, artistic, animal lover
Sister of Nels, friend of Isabella
Love of potatoes, kittens, and elephants
Who feels happy, sad, and scared
Who needs water, friends, and family
who fears snakes and clowns
Who gives fun and laughter
Who would like to see world peace
Born in Yakima
Evenson
-Hannah Evenson